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## **Cllr Barbara Jones-Williams March 2022**

### **Support for Ukraine**

Malvern Hills District residents are being urged to back a national appeal to help the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing conflict in their country.

The UK's Disasters Emergency Committee is coordinating the efforts of 15 agencies to help people who have fled Ukraine or been displaced to other parts of the country, following the invasion by Russia.

A number of community groups and businesses in our district are also holding fund-raising events and appeals for donations of items to send to refugees

More information on these local appeals can be found on our website at [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/support-for-ukraine](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/support-for-ukraine).

Any other community groups organising events can add them to the page by emailing [communications@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:communications@malvern hills.gov.uk)

Worcestershire Leaders have agreed a division of the responsibilities between county and district councils, as well as the allocation of accompanying funding. They published a joint statement on Wednesday, unanimously pledging to support and welcome Ukrainian guests to the county - Worcestershire Leaders unanimously pledge to support and welcome Ukrainian guests to the county | Worcestershire County Council – which contains further information on the roles of different organisations, Here2Help and local libraries.

As of Thursday 31 March, we had received from the Home Office details of 41 sponsors, hosting 97 Ukrainian guests in Malvern Hills district but this is increasing each day. As we receive these details, the Private Sector Housing team are contacting each sponsor to arrange accommodation and welfare checks (if guests have arrived), working alongside the County Council to ensure DBS checks are carried out and access to urgent support needs is arranged.

We now know that we are receiving data before visas have been issued and we are aware of only a very small number of Ukrainians having arrived in the district through this scheme.

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We also continue to work with local voluntary sector organisations, community groups, registered housing providers and other colleagues, e.g. in primary care, to coordinate local support as refugees begin to arrive. This includes connections to the Good Neighbour Networks and partnering with Citizens Advice to provide welfare payments and support. We are in the process of updating our Support for Ukraine webpage with the latest information and signposting.

### **Young people to have a say on the district's future**

We have launched our biggest ever youth survey and young people are being encouraged to have their say on the changes they would like to see in their area.

The Bigger Picture Survey is open to 11 to 18-year-olds who live, work or study in the district.

The questions cover topics such as mental health, lifestyle and local community and the results will help the council to make the district a better and safer place for young people.

Paper copies of the survey will be shared in schools, but there is also an online version on the Let's Talk Malvern Hills engagement platform. An accessible version can also be found online. Poverty Alleviation Plan Endorsed

### **Our Poverty Alleviation Plan,**

which runs from 2022 to 2024, was fully endorsed by the Executive Committee on Tuesday 22 March 2022.

It aims to achieve financial wellbeing for all, where residents of the Malvern Hills district can easily access advice, information, and support to help effectively manage their finances.

We will do this, together with our partners, by delivering actions that prevent residents from getting into poverty and help them to survive and recover from financial difficulty. Some actions in the Poverty Alleviation Partnership Plan include:

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Support residents to develop their financial resilience and capability so that they can plan and know when to seek advice.

- Work with schools to strengthen young people's money management life skills education programme.
- Develop, fund, and promote travel to work options in the district, to include a range of transport options – to reduce barriers to accessing work.
- Improve digital access through the development of digital skills and confidence, whilst ensuring that digital products and services meet the needs of residents.
- Develop, promote, and support work programmes that help residents to prepare for and find work.
- Engage with householders to support them with their energy consumption, offering a full home energy support service and free, impartial advice.
- Work with partners to reduce the risk of rough sleeping or approaching housing at crisis point and ensure other services are accessed by those in need of homelessness support.

For information and advice organisations such as South Worcestershire Citizens Advice. Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/news-alerts/council-endorse-poverty-alleviation-plan](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/news-alerts/council-endorse-poverty-alleviation-plan) for more information.

### **Dog control powers approved**

The Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was approved on Tuesday 22 March at Executive Committee.

The PSPO pursuant to dog control will be brought into force with effect from 1 May 2022, this will continue to allow us to deal with dog control offences by issuing fixed penalty notices.

As part of the PSPO the following will be an offence:

- Fouling – Persons in charge of dog must remove faeces from land immediately

Leads by order – Persons in charge of dog must place dog on lead when directed to by an authorised officer

4.

Exclusion – Persons in charge of dog must not take dog into a fenced/enclosed children's play area

· Means to pick up – Persons in charge of a dog must have the appropriate means to pick dog faeces deposited by that dog.

On 2 December 2021, we had launched a six-week consultation to gather responses on the PSPO that had expired. More than 480 took part in the consultation, with overwhelming support from residents, the majority of which were dog owners. Dog fouling can be reported online at [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/dog-fouling](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/dog-fouling)

### **Boundary Commission changes**

At the last MHDC council meeting the Leader proposed to submit the Councils comments on the Boundary commissions Ward Boundary recommendations, the Council criticised that the commission had carried out only a virtual visit to the District we therefor objected to the large ward, being Martley and Teme Valley, this was carried with just three against.

I have submitted my own comments as you will see a copy below.

# Your submission has been successful

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Thank you for your submission. We are grateful for you taking the time to send your views. The Commission will consider every piece of evidence it receives before finalising the recommendations.

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## Your comment:

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My Concerns regarding the proposed Martley and Teme Valley Ward . having been a Rural Martley Ward Member for a good many years I realised the importance of a single member ward in the Rural areas, unlike urban areas we have many parish councils to attend, because of the logistics of the new proposed ward it will consist of 9 Parish Council Groupings with a length of the Ward being approximately 16 miles long.. Several parish councils in the new proposed ward have already expressed concerns, particularly Martley Parish Council wanting to maintain effective local government as this forms a vital democratic link between the District and parish council by having the continuity of a single and regular councillor.. this I wholeheartedly agree.. On the LGBCE site, it states " New wards should - as far as possible - reflect community interest and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interest " this I fully support. There are several parishes that share the same benefice, Martley, Kenswick and Wichenford share a community magazine, Martley and Doddenham shares a Neighbourhood plan, also several villages share primary schools all of which need to be taken in to consideration.. however, it is my be belief that Alfrick or Lulsley would be more aligned to Leigh, Suckley, Rushwick and Leigh Sinton areas.. My conclusion is, because of the vast size of the proposed new Martley and Teme Valley Ward, it would not be beneficial to have two ward members for the reasons given, my experience of being a ward member for nearly 27 years is the close contact between Ward member and their residents is very important, I fully understand the reduced number of members and each should represent roughly the same number of voters, but I do however think more research should be done before making the final decision.

Please print or save a copy of this page for your own reference.